

The Authority of God's Word

TESTED AND PURE

Proverbs 30:5

“Every word of God is tested...”

Psalm 12:6

“The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on earth, refined seven times.”

Once we understand why God placed so much importance on creation, then we must come to understand the accuracy of God's Word as it reveals details about creation. If we don't, we will run the risk of questioning the authority of God's Word.

Every person has a basis of authority in their lives that influences the way they think and act. For some, when considering creation, it is the published works of a person in a position of authority. Usually these are people with special expertise and impressive credentials such as, scientist, paleontologist, astronomers, theologians or professors. For the Christian, however, the basis of authority is to be the Word of God. Why? Because the Word of God, the Bible, is completely accurate in every thing it says, including matters dealing with science. It is also relevant in every area of life.

Unfortunately, many people dispute the authority, accuracy and relevance of the Bible. Others don't give it a second thought or just don't care. There was a time when I didn't care, but not any more. Today I firmly believe that every word in the Bible is inspired by God, including every dot over every “*i*” and every cross on every “*t*” (**Matthew 5:18**). I have concluded that the authority of the Bible is absolute.

The authority of God's Word must be foundational to all of our thinking. All of our education and training must be brought into alignment with the Word of God. Why is this to be the case? Because we are told in **2 Timothy 3:16** that, “*All Scripture is inspired by God...*” In the Greek language the phrase “*inspired by God*” is one word, “*theopneustos*,” which literally means “*God breathed*.” The Bible is a unique book written over a period of 1,500 years by about 40 different writers, yet by one Author – God Himself. There is no higher authority to align with.

Jesus attested to the fact that Scripture is the basis upon which we are to conduct our lives. It is authoritative. It has final say. In **Matthew 4:4** Jesus quoted **Deuteronomy 8:3** saying, “*It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God,’*” In addition, in **John 17:17**, as Jesus prayed to His Father, He said, “*Sanctify them* (His

followers) *in truth; Thy word is truth.*” The word “*sanctify*” means “*to set apart.*” Therefore, we are set apart in truth – God’s Word. Since we are set apart in truth, then we are not to undermine the authority of that truth. We are to make the Bible, God’s Word, foundational to all our thinking and actions. It is to be the basis of authority in our lives and the basis by which we determine what is true or false. This is especially true regarding creation and what some scientist, educators and theologians say about creation.

Ken Ham, in his book titled *The: Lie Evolution*, published by Creation-Life Publishers Master Books Division, copyright © 1987, states on page 25: “*The Bible contains the very foundational principles and details necessary to develop correct thinking in every area. Unfortunately, too many people have started with the word of men and then judged what the Bible states. What an arrogant position this is! We cannot tell God what He should say. We must be prepared to come under His authority and listen to what He says to us.*” May I say, science is not the basis for proving the Bible, but rather, the Bible is the basis for proving science. The words of professors and theologians are not the basis for determining whether the Bible is true, but rather the Bible is the basis for determining if the words of professors and theologians are true. The discoveries made by scientists and paleontologist do not determine the accuracy of the Bible, but rather the Bible determines the accuracy of the discoveries made by scientists and paleontologist.

We are told in **Psalm 12:6**, “*The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on earth, refined seven times.*” We are also told in **Proverbs 30:5-6**, “*Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.*” The words “*tested*” or “*pure*” are sometimes used regarding a silversmith who heats silver to refine it and take out any impurities. The silversmith does this until only the pure silver remains. What we are being told is, the Word of God is already tested and refined. It is pure before it is spoken and written down. Therefore, God’s Word is trustworthy and accurate. It is authoritative in every area of our lives. It should not be modified. The Word of God is to be foundational to all of our thinking as we observe every aspect of creation or anything else for that matter.

When observing creation there are two approaches one can take to analyze scientific claims: A worldly view that boasts in man or a Biblical view that boasts in God. A worldly view has as its basis for authority the wisdom of man, which claims that science is truth, therefore the Bible only contains truth. A Biblical view has as its basis for authority the wisdom of God, which says the Bible is truth, therefore science only contains truth. In **1 Corinthians 3:19-21** we are told, “*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, ‘He is the One who catches the wise in their craftiness’; and again, ‘The LORD knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless.’ So then, let no one boast in men.*” Truth is one of God’s attributes. He cannot lie. **Romans 1:20** tells us, “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*” God’s attribute of truth is revealed in creation.

The following illustrates historically how the Bible has been proven totally accurate in areas of science and creation. It shows the truthfulness, accuracy, authority and reliability of the Bible.

- Around 712BC Isaiah wrote, ***“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...”*** (Isaiah 40:22). The Hebrew word for ***“circle”*** or ***“zenith”*** is ***“khug.”*** The word allows for the idea that the earth was a sphere. The Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan proved the world was round when his crew sailed the Victoria around the world on a three year voyage that ended in September 1522AD. There is about a 2,334 year gap from **Isaiah 40:22** to Magellan’s voyage.
- Around 2000BC we are told in **Job 36:27-28**, ***“For He draws up the drops of water, they distill rain from the mist, which the clouds pour down, they drip upon man abundantly.”*** There is about a 3,584 year gap from **Job 36:27-28** to the French potter Bernard Palissy who is credited for writing about our modern understanding of the hydrological cycle in 1580AD.
- Around 2000BC we are told in **Job 26:7**, ***“He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing.”*** Today we know that the earth is orbiting in space, suspended by nothing except the invisible gravity from the sun. Isaac Newton discovered this around 1687AD, about 3,687 years after God said it in the Bible.
- Around 1424BC we are told in **Leviticus 17:11**, ***“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”*** We know today that blood carries water and nourishment to every cell and maintains the bodies temperature. It carries oxygen from the lungs throughout the body to all its cells. Indeed, ***“...the life of the flesh is in the blood...”*** This was discovered by William Harvey in 1616AD, about 3,040 years after it was stated in the Bible.
- Around 538BC the psalmist wrote, in **Psalms 102:25-26**, ***“Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.”*** Everything wears out, even the earth and the heavens. This is known today as The Second Law of Thermodynamics. The first formulation of The Second Law of Thermodynamics is credited to the French scientist Sadi Carnot in 1824AD, about 2,362 years after it was declared in the Bible.
- Around 1000BC, while writing about creation, king David wrote, ***“The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the sea”*** (Psalm 8:8). The statement ***“paths of the sea”*** became the motivation behind Matthew Maury’s discovery of ocean currents in 1543AD, about 2,855 years after **Psalm 8:8** was written.
- Around 68AD the writer of Hebrews said, ***“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible”*** (Hebrews 11:3). All visible matter consists of atoms, which cannot be seen and which God spoke into existence. These are the invisible things that make up the things which are seen. In the 1800sAD John Dalton performed experiments that confirmed the existence of atoms, about 1,832 years after God’s Word spoke of these invisible things.
- Around 2000BC God asked Job several questions about His creation. One is in **verse 7** where God asks, where were you ***“...when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted with joy?”*** Karl Jansky was the first to discover in 1932AD that sound emanates from stars, about 3,932 years after God questioned Job.

- Around 55AD we are told in **1 Corinthians 15:41**, *“There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.”* Friedrich Wilhelm August Argelander determined the difference in stellar brightness of one star from another around 1860AD, about 1,805 years after the Bible declared it to be so.
- Around 935BC we read in **Ecclesiastes 1:6**, *“Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; and on its circular courses the wind returns.”* According to the Bible the winds form a global circulation system in the atmosphere. Gaspard-Gustave Coriolis first described “the Coriolis force” on earth that determines the general wind directions in 1835AD, about 2,770 years after God’s Word declared its existence.
- Around 2000BC God asked Job, in **Job 38:16**, *“Have you entered into the springs of the sea?”* The first discovery of deep sea springs was made by Project FAMOUS in 1973, about 3,973 years after God revealed their existence.
- Around 2000BC Eliphaz, in **Job 22:12**, encouraged Job to *“Look also at the distant stars, how high they are!”* Job did not have the means to determine how high the stars were. Friedrich Bessel was the first to measure the distance of stars in 1838AD. Today, thanks to the Hubble Telescope, the farthest known star is in the distant galaxy Abell 1835IR1916 discovered in 2004, which is about 13.2 billion light years from earth. In addition, around 597BC God said in **Jeremiah 33:22**, *“...the host of heaven cannot be counted...”* On January 10, 1996, NASA announced that according to the findings of the Hubble Telescope they estimate that there are 10-15 billion Galaxies each with 50-100 billion stars. Indeed, *“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands”* (Psalm 19:1).

If the words of man, regardless of his scholastic achievements, does not agree with the Bible – guess who is wrong. The Word of God has been tested and found pure. It is authoritative and completely accurate in matters of science as well as in matters of theology, history and salvation. It is true concerning Jesus, whom, we are told, is God the Creator and God the Redeemer. The Bible is the Word God – God breathed.

In addition, the Bible self-authenticates itself as Scripture – as the Word of God. For example, Peter declared Paul’s epistles to be Scripture. In **2 Peter 3:15-16** he said, *“...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”* Paul also claimed he spoke the Word of God in **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, saying, *“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”* When Paul said, *“...the word of God which you heard from us...”* he is referring to himself as well as the other apostles.

In **Hebrews 1:1-2** we are told, ***“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”*** This of course includes the teaching of Jesus in the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It also includes the teaching of the apostles who passed on the words of Christ. Jesus said, in **John 14:26**, ***“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*** Along with the apostles, the prophets of the Old Testament spoke God’s Word as they too were moved by the Holy Spirit. As we are told in **2 Peter 1:21**, ***“...for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*** Nearly 3,000 times the prophets of the Old Testament claimed to be writing the Word of God. For example: In **Jeremiah 30:1-2** we read, ***“The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.’”*** All the prophetic books in the Old Testament as well as the Gospels and epistles in the New Testament is God’s Word written down.

Along with the prophetic books of the Old Testament, Jesus and the apostles also referred to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 Kings, Psalms, and Proverbs as Scripture. The Bible is indeed the Word of God written down. ***“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”*** (**Romans 15:4**). ***“All Scriptures is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work”*** (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). It cannot be over emphasized, the Word of God is accurate in every thing that it says and relevant in every area of our lives. It is tested and found pure. It is trustworthy. Therefore, the authority of God’s Word must be foundational to all of our thinking.

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